

San Diego DX Club Bulletin

October 2018



OCTOBER PROGRAM DXPEDITION TO SCARBOROUGH REEF, BS7H

MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2018

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,

San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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President:

Ron Richards, WB1EAZ

(978) 764-4394

ronaldrichards@gmail.com

Vice President/Pgm Chair:

Ron Rosson, N6XT

(760) 445-6495

ron@n6xt.org

Secretary/Treasurer:

Randy Standke, KQ6RS

(619) 890-2697

r55stan@gmail.com

Past President:

Mike Binder, NA6MB

(858) 673-9201

NA6MB@arrl.net

Board of Directors:

Lou Poanessa, KW6Q

(619) 990-5869

poanessal@gmail.com

Eric Gruff, NC6K

(858) 735-0320

nc6k@arrl.net

Bud Hennesy, AE6BH

AE6BH@cox.net

Ladder:

John Barcroft, K6AM

k6am@arrl.net

Webmaster:

Glen Christensen, AI6RR

Historian:

Glenn Rattmann, K6NA

(760) 749-3936

k6na@cts.com

Bulletin Editor:

Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

(619) 602-2653

bob@farkaly.com

From the Prez . . .

Ron, WB1EAZ



By the time you read this, Ducie Island (VP6D) should be on the air. Indeed, VP6D/MM has been on 40M FT8 as I write this. Arnie, N6HC, gave an entertaining review of the Baker Island DXpedition at the club's September

Meeting and with Arnie going to VP6D, I am looking forward to at least one contact and the "after action story." With announced expeditions and contests, it looks like fall should have plenty of activity for all on the bands. We had our first real taste of fall here in the backcountry with temperatures in the low 40s. The locals are now talking about when the first snow will come – a true sign that fall is here.

The holiday party will be held again this year at Fiddlers Green. Ron Rossen will have details elsewhere. For me, the holiday party is one of the highlights of the year when we can all catch up with each other and even get a great meal, and maybe a door prize or two.

With respect to programs, if you have any suggestions, please forward them to Ron Rossen. In the recent past, we have had a variety of topics and there are only so many DXpeditions and DX topics. Are we missing something for a topic or speaker? Thanks!

On a closing note, I am surprised by stations improperly using FT8 in the F/H mode. There always seem to be several stations calling out of sequence or in the lower 1000 Hz. If you have any questions regarding operation of FT8 in F/H mode, please don't hesitate to ask.

Remember the Holiday Party as Ron, N6XT, should have some information shortly.

Have fun and enjoy!

Ron, WB1EAZ

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

Meeting Minutes, September 26, 2018

At 6:28 pm Ron Richards, WB1EAZ called the meeting to order. 40 members and three guests were in attendance. Our guests were Arnie Shatz N6HC, Steve Belasco, N1BKB, and Wayne Overbeck, N6NB.



Old business – The August minutes and Treasurer Report were approved.

New business – The membership voted to approve Tim Everingham, N6CUX as a new member.

At 6:37 pm Arnie Shatz, N6HC gave a presentation on the Baker Island, KH2, DXpedition.

We took a break from 7:50 pm – 8:12 pm.

After the break we continued new business with about 20 members still present. Bud Hennessy, AE6BH, filled us in on the work he has done for the next order of club shirts. Our plan for the October meeting is to make decisions on the number of shirts, the color or colors, and number of different sizes. Bud will provide text for the bulletin regarding the shirts. Bud will call his contacts regarding donors for the holiday party prizes. We did not have a roundtable this month.

At 8:12 pm the meeting was adjourned.

Treasurer's Report

Income for September:	\$70.00 for membership
Expenses for September:	\$23.45 for speaker's dinner.
Statement Balance on 09/29/2018	\$7,532.00

Randy, KQ6RS

SDDXC TOP 10

John, K6AM



CURRENT COUNTRIES CONFIRMED ON PHONE

10/18	10/17	CALL	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	2.	W6YI	340	360	360	+1
2.	1.	W6YA	339	372	372	-
3.	6.	K9RHY	339	350	350	+1
4.	4.	K6AM	339	349	350	-
5.	3.	N6CW	339	349	349	-
6.	5.	WB1EAZ	339	340	340	-
7.	7.	W6YOO	338	348	348	-
8.	8.	NØRR	337	359	359	+1
9.	9.	K6ZH	336	345	345	-
10.	10.	NN6K	336	339	339	-

10/18	10/17	CALL	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
11.	12.	K5OA	335	356	356	+2
12.	11.	WA6MHZ	334	335	345	-
13.	13.	KØXB	327	335	336	+2
14.	15.	N6XT	326	333	333	+8
15.	14.	WN6K	320	330	339	-
16.	16.	N6VS	310	315	319	-
17.	17.	NA6L	310	310	311	+1
18.	18.	WB6BFG	301	304	309	-
19.	19.	N6JOJ	297	299	304	-
20.	20.	NG6Z	290	292	295	-

We're lookin' at the top 20 in this category to accommodate the larger number of entries. A bit of a shakeup as those who have received their Kosovo QSLs report in to add another country. In several cases this moves them up in the standings. As soon as the rest of you get those cards, send me your update so everyone gets back to even.

Each month, we will publish a top ten list for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, CW, 10/40M and 80/20M. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

CHECK YOUR LOGS

It's time once again to recognize those of you who have made outstanding DX achievements during the year. Please check your logs and let me know if you worked your 331st current country or more than 20 all time new countries during 2018. Send your totals to k6am at arrl dot net.

John, K6AM

SDDXC CONTEST RESULTS

John, K6AM

2018 ARRL DX CW CONTEST



CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
MS HP	ZF1A (ops K6AM, N6MJ)	6,203,790	6,236	333	#1 World
SO HP	K6NA	918,459	1,175	261	#1 SW Div, #2 W6
SO LP	KI6RRN	337,428	623	182	#1 SW Div, #1 W6, #16 US/VE
SO LP	WN6K	120,258	397	102	#2 SDG, #3 SW Div
SO LP	W6JBR	50,148	200	84	
SA HP	N6NC	258,048	451	192	#1 SDG
SA HP	N5ZO	1,710	38	15	
SO 20	W6YA	216,384	744	98	#1 SW Div, #6 US/VE
SO 20	N7CW	156,960	547	96	#2 SW Div, #10 US/VE

John, K6AM

VP Report

Ron, N6XT

SAVE THE DATE!

This year's Holiday Party will be at Fiddlers Green, 2760 Shelter Island Dr. on December 16th, 2018. Details and RSVP URL will be published in the November SDDXC Bulletin.

This month's presentation will be the BS7H Scarborough Reef DXpedition.



From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



Getting Over Scarborough Reef

Happy Halloween!

The subject of this month's meeting program relit a passion I thought had burned out years ago. To me, Scarborough Reef, BS7H, was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. And not a good one.

A few years ago, I was standing on the veranda of the Malahap Floating Restaurant, a seafood place in North Poblacion, Masinloc, Zambale (the Philippines) enjoying an after-dinner cocktail with my associates. Since we were meeting in Manila the next day, I was anxious to get as close to Scarborough Reef as I could without getting my feet wet. That's the place to do it.

The disputed Scarborough Reef/Shoal is claimed by the Philippine government and within Masinloc's territorial jurisdiction. Indeed, the Philippine name for Scarborough is "Masinloc". But BS7H is a Chinese callsign. To me that has always been odd because Scarborough is much closer to the Philippines than to any point in China. Indeed, Scarborough is 120 miles from where I was standing on the veranda of the Malahap Floating Restaurant but over 500 miles from the shores of Hainan Province.



PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICE UNIT

19 June 1997

Dear Mr. Parkaly,

I wish to express the Department's appreciation for your letter to Secretary Domingo L. Siazon, Jr., on 29 May 1997.

The Philippines has been unequivocal in its claim over Scarborough Shoal, which was known during the Spanish era in the Philippines as "Bajo Masinloc", a namesake of a town in the province of Zambales. We have had a quiet possession of the area even when the shoal became an object of interest to international ham radio operators.

It has therefore become a surprise to the Philippine Government that our quiet exercise of jurisdiction over the shoal through the years is being placed in question by purported attempts of another state to exercise acts of sovereignty in the area based on a frivolous territorial claim.

The Philippine sovereignty over the shoal is unquestionable. Aside from being a traditional fishing ground for Filipino fishermen, the shoal has been a place where Philippine laws on smuggling and illegal fishing have been enforced. The Philippines has been conducting oceanographic, reef structure and other marine scientific studies in the area, which had also served as an impact range during military exercises by our defense forces. The presence of a Philippine lighthouse on the shoal is another proof of our quiet possession of the area.

Mr. Robert C. Parkaly
7449 South Genoa Circle
Aurora, CO 80016 USA
Fax: 818-930-9479

The Philippine Government is prepared to lay the legal basis of its claim over the shoal at the right time and in the appropriate forum. While we have no objection to the "expedition" by ham radio operators in the shoal, we wish to clarify that any activities in the area would need the permission of the Philippine Government to avoid difficulties with the law enforcement agencies of the Philippines.

Sincerely yours,


OSCAR G. VALENZUELA
Assistant Secretary and
Department Spokesman

Years ago, when Scarborough Reef was still under discussion as a new DXCC entity by the ARRL DXAC, I FAXed a letter to the Philippine Government and received a courteous and prompt reply. Basically, the Philippine government was rejecting China's Scarborough Reef claim.

I used this letter as part of several packages that I sent to the ARRL (DXAC, BOD, officers, etc.) voicing my concern for and my objection to the addition of Scarborough Reef to the DXCC list. I also corresponded with my regional ARRL Directorship.

Here's what I finally found out from Marshall Quiat, AG0X (my ARRL Regional Director at the time):

"3. Some members of the DXAC, the Awards Committee, many Board members, and many DXers assume that regulation of the League awards is a function of the DXAC. This has never been true. The Board has, and always has had, ultimate determination of what League policy is and will be.

Mostly, the Board does not want to micro-manage programs and the functioning of programs. This desire has led to establishment of procedures designed to permit determinations without bringing the Board into the process. These procedures have not worked -- often because DXAC members wrongly concluded that the committee was tasked with ultimate decision.

I was against Scarborough because I felt: (a) it was a Marty Laine money-making action; (2) I doubted the validity and integrity of the "rocks" for DX purposes.

I determined to vote for it because I felt the matter had gone so far that the State department requested the recognition to avoid embarrassing the People's Republic of China -- a recent reentry to Ham Radio. I felt the request should be honored as a cooperation with national policy -- we are loyal (see the "Amateur's Code" in the front of every ARRL Handbook since 1928). Further I felt it was not a violation of League rules, since at the time the existing criteria for "nation"-status were not violated by making it a "country".

I grant the above is a little less than a clear, strong and forceful position. However, I do not feel it is in anyway an undesirable or unconscionable decision. You must examine the picture in full and determine what you think. I don't think being abrasive with China is something the League should be involved with -- let Clinton, Dole, Gingrich and the others in whose hands our security rests make foreign policy. I am not going to waste energy in a fruitless fight when there are fights I can win. If I don't fight the State department, I may have a very minor influence that can result in an international ham license that will permit me to operate freely throughout the world. It may also result in the State department being less an enemy to Ham Radio in future WRC (WARC) meetings."

What I was told (although not in writing) was that BS7H became a new DXCC counter through action by the ARRL Board of Directors, NOT the DXAC as is the custom. Curious.

During this ordeal, I was also copied on quite a bit of correspondence among the ARRL, OH2BH, JA1ELY and others who “had a dog in this fight”. After the passage of more than 20 years, it appears to me that the addition of Scarborough Shoal/Reef to the ARRL DXCC Country List was strongly influenced by geopolitics; enmity among some in the DX community (the other operations specifically listed in the correspondence were: P5/OH2AM and BV9P Pratas.); and disagreement over the role of the DXAC in interpreting the DXCC rules. (BV9P Pratas is another example of geopolitics influencing DXCC decisions— I may write about that interesting bit of geopolitics in a future edition of the Bulletin).

I’m pretty much over the BS7H controversy by now. Perhaps all this was an over-reaction. BS7H is firmly established on the DXCC official entity list. What may change that is China’s efforts at person-made islands in the South China Sea (see May 2016 SDDXC Bulletin).

Paraphrasing Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD (SK), “DX (still) IS!”

Bob, K9RHY